Attorney Docket: 2101/50768
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GEOFFREY M. PROUDLEY ET AL

Serial No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED PCT No.: PCT/GB01/01797

Filed: APRIL 5, 2002

Title: INTERFACING OPTICAL TRANSMISSION STRUCTURES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT **APRIL 5, 2002**
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims, prior to the examination of the application during the U.S. National Phase.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows: **(A copy of a marked up version with markings to show changes made is attached hereto.)**

4. (Amended) The module of Claim 1, and being suitable for attachment to a central surface portion of the composite structure, the module having a mating surface for coupling to the composite structure to define an intersection between the module and the central surface portion, and wherein

the interface optics manipulate light that, in use, passes between the module and the optical transmission means through the intersection.

6. (Amended) The module of Claim 4, wherein the mating surface is penetrated by an optical port communicating with the interface optics within the module.

7. (Amended) The module of Claim 1, and being arranged to present a streamlined exposed surface when the module is attached to the composite structure.

8. (Amended) The module of Claim 1, wherein the interface optics comprise an optical interface portion adapted to interface with a co-operating optical interface portion in the composite structure.

9. (Amended) The module of Claim 1, comprising locating formations adapted to co-operate with complementary locating formations in or on the composite structure.

10. (Amended) The module of Claim 1, comprising integral sensor components.

11. (Amended) A composite structure comprising a support structure carrying an embedded optical transmission means, and having an interface module as defined in Claim 1, attached thereto in optical communication with the embedded optical transmission means.

12. (Amended) A method of making the composite structure of Claim 11, the method comprising forming a passageway in the support structure to create an optical port between the embedded optical transmission means and the exterior of the composite structure, and attaching an interface module to the composite structure over the optical port.

(Applicant's Remarks are set forth hereinbelow, starting on the following page.)

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the claims, before examination of the application in the U.S. National Phase is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #2101/50768).

Respectfully submitted,

Gary R. Edwards
Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
GRE:kms
(CAM #: 38665.025)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

4. (Amended) The module of [any preceding Claim] Claim 1, and being suitable for attachment to a central surface portion of the composite structure, the module having a mating surface for coupling to the composite structure to define an intersection between the module and the central surface portion, and wherein the interface optics manipulate light that, in use, passes between the module and the optical transmission means through the intersection.

6. (Amended) The module of [Claim 4 or 5,] Claim 4, wherein the mating surface is penetrated by an optical port communicating with the interface optics within the module.

7. (Amended) The module of [any preceding Claim,] Claim 1, and being arranged to present a streamlined exposed surface when the module is attached to the composite structure.

8. (Amended) The module of [any preceding Claim,] Claim 1, wherein the interface optics comprise an optical interface portion adapted to interface with a co-operating optical interface portion in the composite structure.

9. (Amended) The module of [any preceding Claim,] Claim 1, comprising locating formations adapted to co-operate with complementary locating formations in or on the composite structure.

10. (Amended) The module of [any preceding Claim,] Claim 1, comprising integral sensor components.

11. (Amended) A composite structure comprising a support structure carrying an embedded optical transmission means, and having an interface module as defined in [any preceding Claim] Claim 1, attached thereto in optical communication with the embedded optical transmission means.

12. (Amended) A method of making the composite structure of Claim 11, the method comprising forming a passageway in the support structure to create an optical port between the embedded optical transmission means and the exterior of the composite structure, and attaching an interface module [as defined in any of Claims 1 to 10] to the composite structure over the optical port.